

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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|----------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Ministry of the Interior Troops - May 1954

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1. An unidentified unit of the Ministry of the Interior is quartered in four wooden buildings 30 x 8 meters in size located in the enclosure of the "Gun Workshop" in the "Sugar Factory" (industrial quarter) section of the northern outskirts of Sofia.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Unit has a strength of approximately 120 men, commanded by a captain. It is equipped with Shpagin (PPSh) automatic rifles and pistols of unknown types. The uniforms of the men are similar to those worn by the Army, with blue caps and red epaulettes.
3. The unit has one jeep (at the disposal of the commander of the unit ) and 7-8 Molotov, Praha, and ZIS trucks.
4. The personnel of this unit are employed as guards for the "Gun Workshop," the "Voroshilov" Factory, the "Vasil Kolarov" Factory, the "Elektrometal" Factory, the Railroad Cars Workshop, located partly in the "Sugar Factory" Quarter and partly farther north in the outskirts of Sofia. They also guard a new bridge (completed in 1952) and a railroad bridge which was repaired in 1952, both located on the Sukhodol River in the northern outskirts of Sofia.<sup>2</sup>

Antiaircraft Battery - April 1954

5. A fixed antiaircraft battery is located on the summit of the hill known as "Slatinski Redoubt" in the east-southeast outskirts of Sofia. The hill is 593

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meters high.<sup>3</sup> A sketch of this area is enclosed herewith as an Appendix, pages 4 and 5.

6. The position consists of the following:

- a. Four emplacements of packed earth, semi-underground, approximately 70 centimeters deep, arranged in a square area about 40 meters per side; informant could not give details concerning the guns of the positions;
- b. Underground shelter of reinforced concrete, located in the middle of the area delimited by the four emplacements, having the following construction characteristics:
  - (1) Outside dimensions: Approximately 12 x 12 meters.
  - (2) Inside dimensions: Approximately 9 x 9 meters.
  - (3) Depth (in respect to the level of the ground): Approximately 2 meters.
  - (4) Covering: Dome-shaped, rising approximately 1 meter above the level of the earth, sodded over.
  - (5) Thickness of the dome: Approximately 1 meter.
  - (6) Thickness of the walls: Approximately 1.5 meters.

Inside, the shelter is divided by a wall into two connecting rooms; the larger room, which occupies approximately two-thirds of the area, is used by the gun emplacement Command; the smaller space is used as a depot for munitions and the fuel for the searchlights; and

- c. Four searchlights, in semi-underground positions of the same depth as the cannons (approximately 70 centimeters), located near the emplacements; each searchlight is powered by its own generator, of German production.
7. An open trench about 90 centimeters deep and about 60-70 meters wide connects the emplacements and the shelter.
8. Approximately 100-120 men are attached to this installations. They are commanded by a captain. There are no personnel quarters at the installation, but informant believes that the quarters are located only a short distance from the positions.
9. A fence 1.50-1.70 meters high encloses an area of approximately 150 x 150 meters, with the positions in the middle of the enclosure. The area is covered with thick vegetation.
10. At irregular intervals, daily firing practice is carried out on targets drawn by an airplane. During the night, training in aircraft spotting is carried out with the use of the searchlights in collaboration with other antiaircraft positions (also equipped with searchlights) located on Vitosha Mountain, to the south of Sofia.

Underground Fuel and Explosives Depot - Early 1954

11. An underground fuel, explosives, and munitions depot is located approximately six kilometers north of Sofia in a wooded zone. Entry into the area is restricted; the area is delimited by white-painted signs, set on posts, reading "Strogo Zabraneno" (Strictly prohibited), as on high tension lines.<sup>4</sup>
12. The depot has a "bunker" type entrance with concrete panels and metal double-shutter doors 3 x 3 meters in size. A yard in front of the entrance serves for the parking and shunting of the motor vehicles.

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13. The depot is reached by a road coming from the east. This is a dirt road wide enough for double traffic of only small-capacity motor vehicles. For the use of the large vehicles, a special area has been constructed on the north side of the road where the road enters the woods in which the depot is located.

14. [redacted] powder for cartridges and explosives, rockets for Katyushas (rocket launchers), and fuel for jet planes are stored at the depot. The fuel is stored in underground tanks. These materials are supplied as follows:

a. Powder for cartridges and explosives, unknown quantities from the "Georgi Dimitrov" Chemical Factory;

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b. Rockets for the Katyushas, imported from the USSR; and

c. Fuel for airplanes, not known.

15. There is a heavy traffic, both ways, every day along the road into the depot area. It consists of "Tatra" tank trucks, seven tons capacity, and ZIS trucks of five tons capacity, belonging to the Armed Forces.

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16. The depot is guarded by armed civilians. They wear a type of uniform of iron gray color which, in a way, resembles that of the railroads. [redacted]

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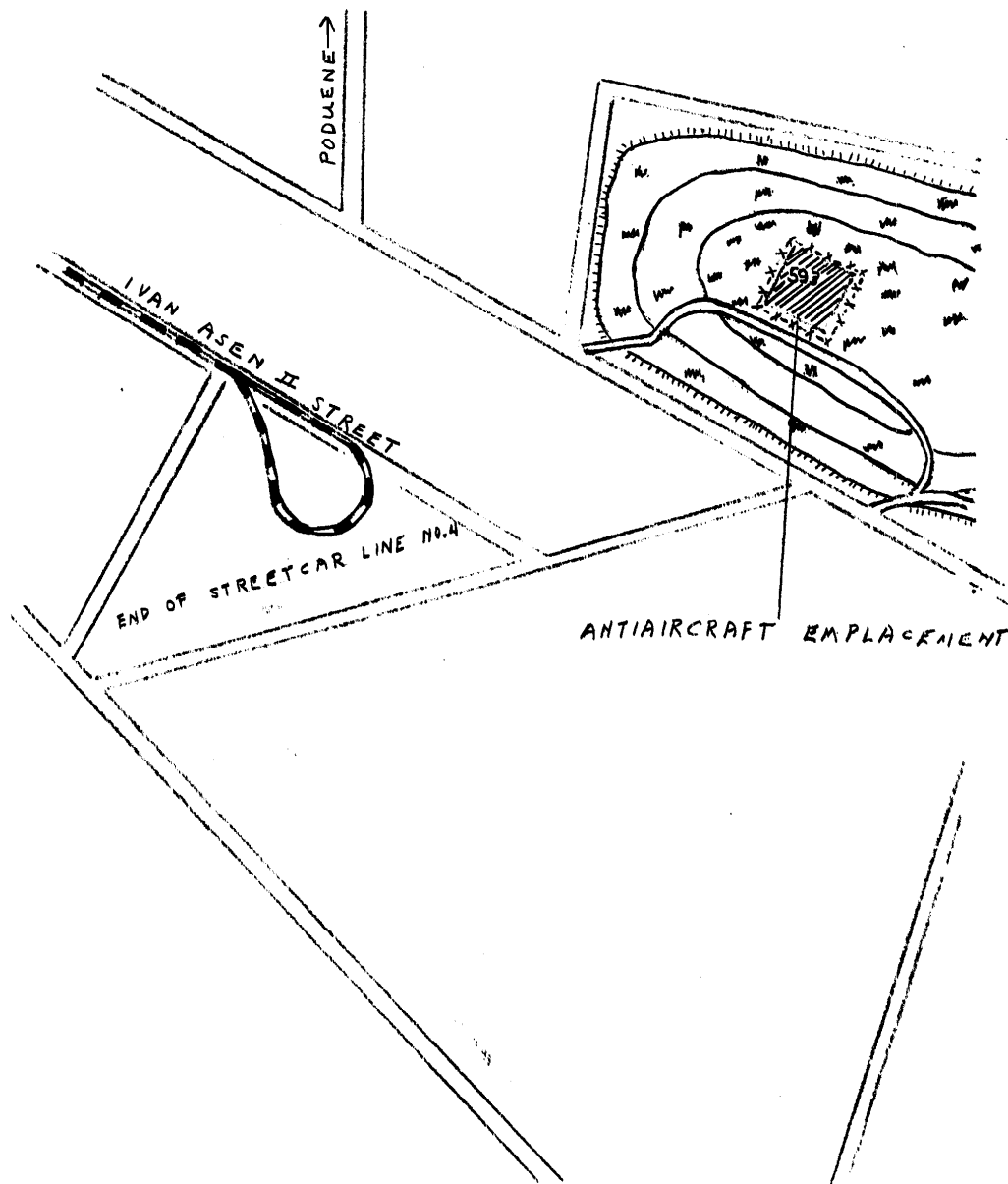
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APPENDIX

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Sofia Antiaircraft Emplacement



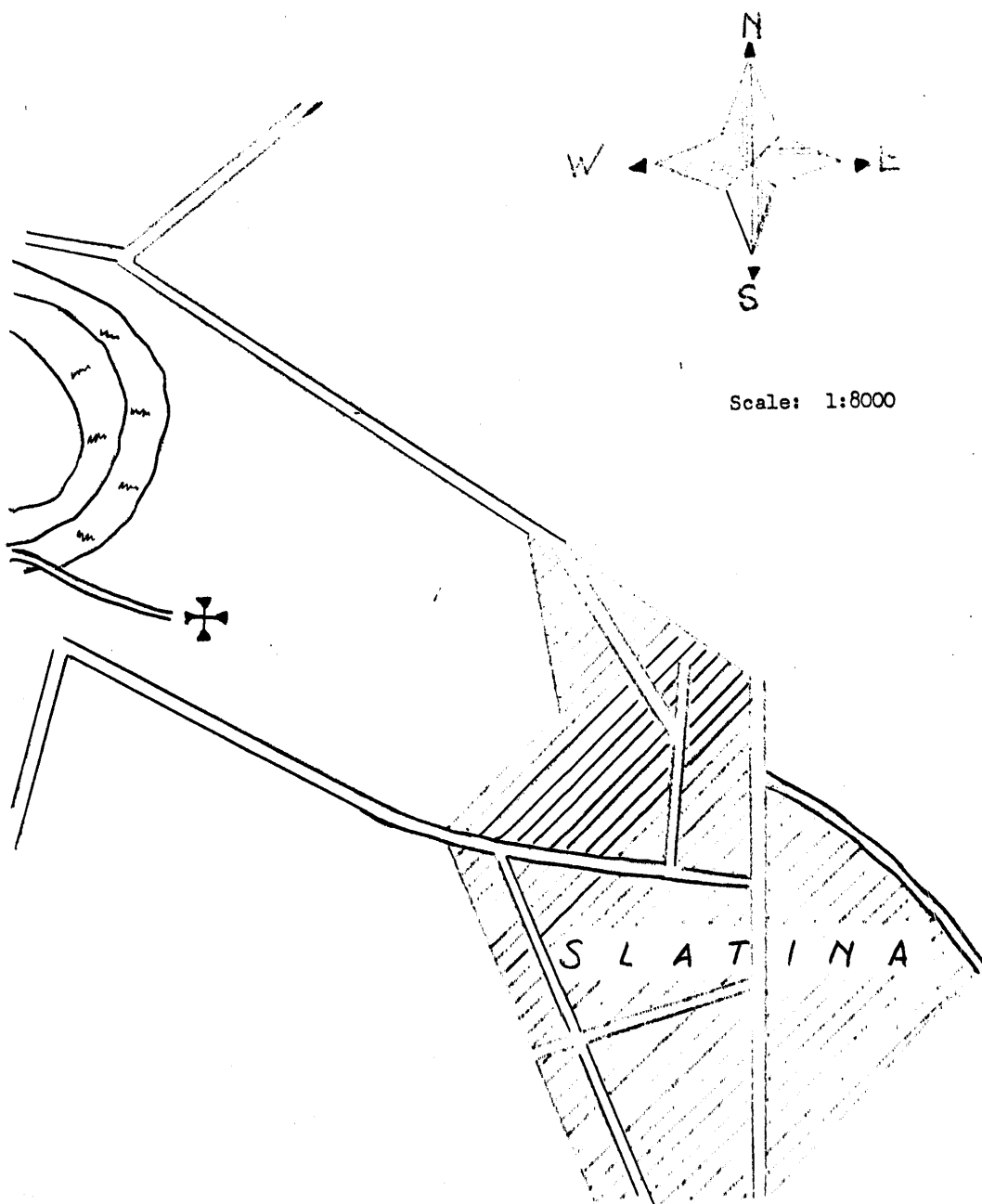
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APPENDIX (Cont.)

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